

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn). A method of making a filter media comprising the steps of:
providing a precursor web comprising ~~predominant~~ predominantly staple length polyester fibers;

providing a foraminous surface, and positioning said precursor web ~~and on~~ on said foraminous surface; and

hydroentangling said precursor web to form said filter media, and subjecting said filter media to a heat-treatment step selected from the group consisting of heat-fusing and heat-setting, said filter media having a basis weight of no more than about 12 oz/yd², and exhibiting a Mullen burst strength of at least about 395 psi, and machine-direction and cross-direction shrinkage of less than about 3% at 350° F.

Claim 2 (withdrawn). A method of making a filter media in accordance with claim 1, wherein said foraminous surface is a three-dimensional image transfer device.

Claim 3 (withdrawn) A method of making a filter media in accordance with claim 1, including:
heat-setting said filter media after said hydroentangling step.

Claim 4 (withdrawn). A method of making a filter media in accordance with claim 2, wherein said precursor web comprises fusible fibers whereby said filter media is thermally bonded during said heat-setting step.

Claim 5 (currently amended). A filter media comprising hydroentangled, ~~predominant~~ predominantly polyester staple length fibers having a basis weight of no more than about 12 oz/yd², a Mullen burst strength of at least about 395 psi, and machine-direction and cross-direction shrinkage of less than about 3% at 350° F, said filter media being heat-treated by one of heat-fusing and heat-setting.

Claim 6 (original). A filter media in accordance with claim 4, wherein said media exhibits machine-direction and cross-direction shrinkage of less than about 2%.

Claim 7 (original). A filter media in accordance with claim 4, wherein said filter media exhibits a machine-direction tensile strength of at least about 105 lb/in and a cross-direction tensile strength of at least about 110 lb/in.

Claim 8 (original). A filter media in accordance with claim 1, wherein said filter media is a gas filter.

Claim 9 (original). A filter media in accordance with claim 1, wherein said filter media is an air filter.

Claim 10 (original). A filter media in accordance with claim 1, wherein said filter media is a liquid filter.